

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please cancel Claim 6 without prejudice.

Claim 1 (Original): A water-insoluble silver conjugated protein formed of a silver salt and a water-soluble protein containing 0.1 to 200 μ moles of active thiol groups per gram.

Claim 2 (Original): A silver-conjugated protein as set forth in claim 1, wherein the water-soluble protein is a whey protein or a hydrolysate or a water solubilized material thereof, or a hyrdolysate or a water-solubilized material of an eggshell membrane protein.

Claim 3. (Original): A silver conjugated protein as set forth in claim 2, wherein lactose is removed from the whey protein beforehand.

Claim 4. (Original): A silver conjugated protein as set forth in claim 2, wherein the hydrolysate of the eggshell membrane protein is obtained by an alkali-hydrolysis treatment of eggshell membrane.

Claim 5. (Original): A silver conjugated protein as set forth in claim 1, wherein the silver salt is silver nitrate or silver acetate.

Claim 6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Original): A silver conjugated protein as set forth in claim 1, wherein the proportion of the silver salt to the protein in the silver conjugated protein is 0.2 to 3 g of the silver salt with respect to 1 g of the protein.

Claim 8. (Amended Previously): An antibacterial/antifungal agent containing a silver conjugated protein as set forth in claim 1 as an active component.

Claim 9. (Original): An antibacterial/antifungal paper treated with an antibacterial/antifungal agent as set forth in claim 8.

Claim 10. (Original): An antibacterial/antifungal paper as set forth in claim 9, wherein treatment comprises coating.

Claim 11. (Original): An antibacterial/antifungal paper as set forth in claim 10, wherein a coating weight is 0.01 to 10 g with respect to 1 m² of paper.

Claim 12 (New): A silver conjugated protein as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the protein is obtained by contacting under stirring an aqueous solution of the silver salt with an aqueous solution containing the protein.